



Peace Education Program

Twenty-Six Years "Giving Youth More Than A Fighting Chance"

Twenty-six years ago Peace Education Program taught conflict resolution in one classroom, in one school. **Today we have a network of 155 schools where mediation and/or conflict resolution is practiced every day. Peace Education Program impacts 20,000 youth annually.**

Seventeen years ago we formed "Youth for Peace" – teen leaders committed to reducing prejudice. **Today, one of those youth leaders is a subcontractor teaching conflict resolution through story and song. Other graduates are leaders in community development, education and fundraising in this community or others.**

Fifteen years ago we began a partnership with a middle school with high levels of violence – students were "body slamming" each other in the hallways – lifting someone over the head and dropping them to the floor. **Today, the youth mediators conduct 200 mediations annually with few gang-related conflicts reported in five years. The commitment of the adult coordinator and the skills taught to youth combine to create a culture of peace in a sea of violence.**

Fourteen years ago, Louisville's youth homicide rate was one of the highest in the nation. We joined a coalition to stop the violence. We trained 400 gang involved youth and their friends to be mediators in seven Housing Authority sites. **Today there are sixty-four community sites where young people can solve their problems nonviolently.**

Ten years ago Peace Education Program introduced whole school conflict resolution and mediation to a Middle School. **Today, one of those mediators is on our staff teaching conflict resolution to other young men.**

Six years ago we partnered with Kentucky Shakespeare Festival to teach conflict resolution to youth in residential treatment centers. **Today, we are co-authoring a study guide and curricula to train actors/actresses to take this training statewide.**

Three years ago we created a comprehensive mediation manual. **Today, that manual is printed in Kinyarwanda. The summer of 2007 we trained a team of Rwandans to return home and teach mediation to Hutu, Tutsi and Twa youth.**

The Peace Education Program strengthens communities and schools by training youth and adults to build and sustain positive relationships. We do this by providing learning experiences to reduce violence, enhance personal integrity and foster mutual respect. We teach conflict resolution, peer mediation and prejudice reduction. (Mission Statement, 2001)